



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

**OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

Bryan Arroyo
Acting Assistant Director for Endangered Species
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20204

Jim Lecky, Director
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
13th Floor 1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Lecky:

On August 31, 2006, my office initiated informal consultation consistent with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with respect to several Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) assessment and related determinations concerning the potential effects of pesticide products containing atrazine to seven listed species. One assessment and determination focused on potential effects to the Alabama sturgeon in the Alabama River, and a second assessment and determination focused on potential effects to six species in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (loggerhead turtle, leatherback turtle, green turtle, Kemp's ridley turtle, shortnose sturgeon, and dwarf wedge mussel). Some of the species subject to these determinations may range beyond the specific geographic area of pesticide use being assessed and therefore, these determinations contain our conclusions regarding atrazine's potential to affect these species only from its use in the geographic areas indicated (that is, the Chesapeake Bay and Alabama River watersheds). In both cases, OPP determined these uses of atrazine are Not Likely to Adversely Affect the subject listed species.

Since initiation of this informal consultation, our technical staffs have exchanged information and have met as a group on three occasions in an effort to clarify certain issues raised by your staff in response to our submission, and to identify those that OPP would address in amended analyses. In addition, Jim Jones, Anne Lindsay, Steven Bradbury and I met with you or your representative on January 5, 2006, to discuss issues raised by your staff which were not of a technical nature, and that will not therefore, be addressed through technical amendments to our analyses.

The OPP technical team has now completed work to address the questions and issues raised by your staff and we have amended our analyses to reflect that work. These amendments did not alter our original determination that atrazine use in the Chesapeake Bay and Alabama River watersheds is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the subject listed species. Therefore, I am requesting that your offices continue the ongoing informal consultation based on our amended analyses, which are available on our Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/endanger/effects/index.html#atrazine> .

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter. I look forward to your response on our August, 2006, request for informal consultation regarding these determinations.

Sincerely,

*/original signed by Arthur-Jean B. Williams/
March 21, 2007*

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Associate Director
Environmental Fate and Effects Division Office of
Pesticide Programs (7507P)

cc: Steven Bradbury, EFED
Debbie Edwards, SRRD
Nancy Golden, USFWS
Maria Boroja, NMFS